



Bonner County

September 2020

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DEPT. OF LABOR

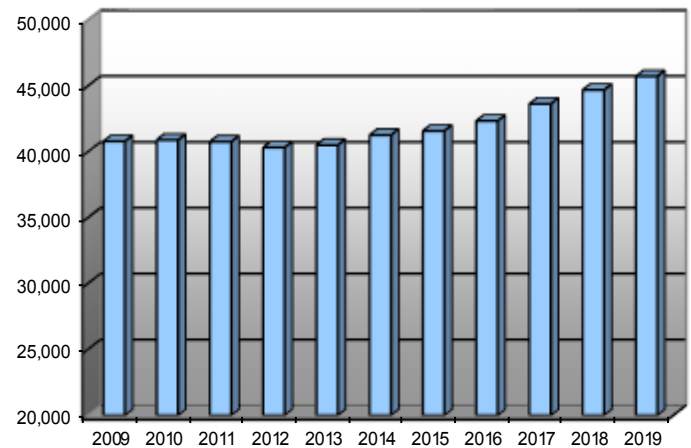
Workforce Trends

Population

Bonner County has experienced steady population growth. Its beauty, recreational opportunities and quality of life attracted thousands of new residents. From 2009 to 2019, the county's population grew 12 percent from 40,809 to 47,739 while Idaho's population grew 15 percent and the U.S. population grew 7 percent. The county also has hundreds of summer residents.

Sandpoint, the county seat, had a population of 8,931 in 2019. Surrounding populations include 1,157 in Ponderay, 978 in Kootenai and 874 in Dover. The largest city west of Sandpoint, Priest River, has 1,893 residents. Clark Fork with 579 residents is the largest town to the east.

Population

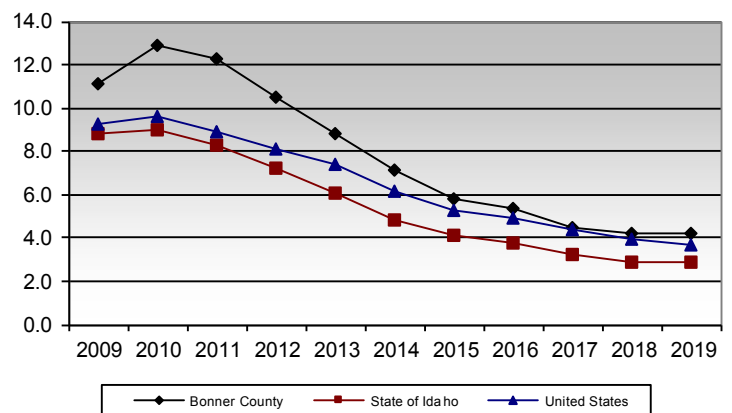


Labor Force & Employment

Bonner County has enjoyed considerable success in diversifying and expanding its economy. Manufacturing jobs rose 27 percent from 1,486 in 2000 to 1,880 in 2010 while they fell 26 percent statewide. The aerospace sector has taken off in Bonner County with companies like Aerocet, Quest Aircraft, Cygnus and Tamarack Aerospace Group. Also contributing to the expansion were Litehouse salad dressings, Unicep Packaging plastic applicators, Thorne Research's nutritional supplements, Diedrich's coffee-roasting machines and Encoder Products electronics. But the recession claimed nearly 450 manufacturing jobs. The county's mainstay, sawmills, have been suffering from low prices. Since 2007, the Priest River area has lost more than 450 sawmill and logging jobs.

The development of Schweitzer Mountain Resort and Sandpoint's reputation as a haven for the arts contributed to tourism growth. Schweitzer's expansions since 1990 have boosted winter employment at local motels, restaurants and

Unemployment Rates



Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	20,042	21,373
Total Employment	19,183	20,118
Unemployed	859	1,255
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	5.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

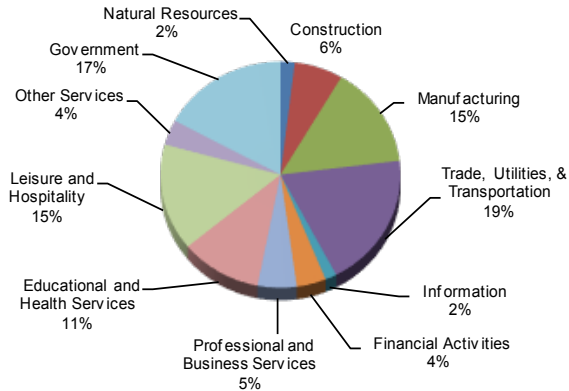
stores. But as important as the winter tourism is, the summer brings even more tourists.

The largest private employers are Litehouse Inc, a manufacturer of salad dressing and related products headquartered in Sandpoint, and Walmart, major retail outlet located in Sandpoint.

The timber industry's troubles, steep drops in construction and other effects of the recession are slowing the local economy. However, the county continues to lay the foundation for strong growth in the future.

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	20,958	19,497	19,047	18,610	18,280	18,225	18,529	18,921	19,255	19,675	20,058
Unemployment	2,328	2,516	2,352	1,948	1,606	1,299	1,083	1,026	875	824	836
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.1	12.9	12.3	10.5	8.8	7.1	5.8	5.4	4.5	4.2	4.2
Employment	18,630	16,981	16,695	16,662	16,674	16,926	17,446	17,895	18,380	18,851	19,222

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Major Employers

Bonner General Hospital
Lake Pend Oreille School District
Litehouse (manufacturer)
Thorne Research
Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Life Care Center (Skilled Nursing Facility)
Idaho Forest Group
Walmart

Economic Development

The Bonner County Economic Development Corp. and the Priest River Development Corp. are working to bring more jobs to the county. They can show potential employers the county's high quality of life, excellent business climate and low business costs.

The county's growing population and ever-growing number of tourists benefit many retail and service businesses. Construction and retail experienced a decrease in the number of jobs over the past decade. With the exception of agriculture, all industries showed growth over the past year.

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Assemblers	\$10.37	\$13.68
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$11.92	\$18.00
Carpenters	\$14.82	\$20.89
Cashiers	\$9.11	\$11.41
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.35	\$12.83
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$15.05	\$23.45
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.65	\$12.71
Laborers, General	\$11.71	\$15.14
Millwrights	\$19.63	\$25.06
Office Clerks, General	\$10.70	\$16.26
Registered Nurses	\$25.94	\$35.10
Retail Salespersons	\$10.02	\$14.58
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$12.08	\$16.82

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	13,355	\$30,628	14,207	\$36,348	14,494	\$37,268
Agriculture	165	\$28,697	206	\$38,592	209	\$40,940
Mining	151	\$47,308	126	\$62,416	144	\$67,079
Construction	946	\$31,019	877	\$36,664	942	\$38,259
Manufacturing	1,977	\$35,008	2,233	\$48,302	2,119	\$47,241
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,943	\$32,984	2,738	\$33,046	2,792	\$34,750
Information	162	\$36,845	226	\$57,483	224	\$60,968
Financial Activities	525	\$37,762	574	\$42,300	566	\$45,621
Professional and Business Services	724	\$40,057	762	\$45,059	760	\$48,426
Educational and Health Services	1,086	\$28,587	1,476	\$30,882	1,585	\$31,871
Leisure and Hospitality	1,843	\$13,838	2,129	\$17,646	2,213	\$18,573
Other Services	470	\$20,910	429	\$29,211	482	\$26,154
Government	2,362	\$34,003	2,431	\$42,289	2,459	\$44,057

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bonner County	\$29,359	\$29,850	\$31,745	\$33,147	\$33,512	\$34,758	\$36,918	\$38,542	\$39,444	\$41,209
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis